

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7561

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, UK

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL AMENDING SINGLE
CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, 1961

REF: STATE 12353

1. WE DISCUSSED RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL AMENDING
SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS WITH CHRISTOPHER
TRAIN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL
DRUG AFFAIRS AT HOME OFFICE, JANUARY 22. TRAIN STATED
THAT HMG'S BASIC OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO RATIFY THE
PROTOCOL AND THERE ARE NO POLICY PROBLEMS HOLDING UP
RATIFICATION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN POLITICAL
CONDITIONS DELAYING FINAL RATIFICATION AND HMG WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO RATIFY BEFORE THE NEXT COMMISSION ON
NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) SESSION WHICH CONVENES FEBRUARY 17.

2. TRAIN POINTED OUT THAT RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL
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WAS A POLITICAL ACT LINKED TO THE UK POSITION ON THE

SINGLE CONVENTION. HMG DOES NOT FEEL IT CAN RATIFY THE PROTOCOL UNTIL IT HAS DEVELOPED CLEAR POSITIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION. ONE OF THE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS HAS BEEN THE NEED TO CLEAR UP SOME DOUBT OVER THE QUESTION OF CONTROL OF BARBITUATES. A DECISION HAS NOW BEEN MADE ON HOW HMG WILL APPROACH THIS SUBJECT WHICH IS BEING CIRCULATED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL FOR APPROVAL. THE SECOND FACTOR DELAYING RATIFICATION IS THE SO-CALLED "POMPIDOU INITIATIVE" UNDER WHICH A MEETING WAS HELD IN 1973 TO COORDINATE NARCOTICS CONTROL POLICY AMONG THE SIX PLUS BRITAIN. AT THE INITIAL MEETING IT WAS DETERMINED THAT FURTHER MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD DURING 1974 TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPANTS TO COORDINATE THEIR NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION. UNFORTUNATELY, NO MEETINGS WERE HELD AND THE GROUP HAS BEEN MORIBUND FOR THE LAST YEAR. TRAIN HAS RECEIVED INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRENCH MAY BE PREPARING TO CALL ANOTHER MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. TRAIN ALSO PLANS TO TEST EUROPEAN OPINION ON RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL AT THE CND MEETING IN FEBRUARY. WHEN THE HOME OFFICE FEELS A CONSENSUS HAS BEEN REACHED AMONG THE EUROPEANS ON NARCOTICS CONTROL LEGISLATION, IT WILL PUSH FOR RAPID RATIFICATION.

3. COMMENT: THOUGH TRAIN EMPHASIZED HMG COMMITMENT TO RATIFICATION, WE ARE SOMEWHAT UNEASY ABOUT PROFESSED NEED TO CONFER WITH EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES WHEN FRG SEEMS TO BE MOVING ALONG ALONE. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO KNOW IF THIS QUALIFICATION HAS BEEN RAISED IN PARIS, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE OR ROME.

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